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TAGS: [PREL](#) [VT](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: HOLY SEE STILL WAITING FOR BISHOPS

REF: Vatican 064

CLASSIFIED BY: Christopher Sandrolini, Deputy Chief of Mission,
EXEC, State.

REASON: 1.4 (d)

[11](#). (C) Ambassador and DCM again discussed Zimbabwe with
Monsignor Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's Undersecretary for
Relations with States (i.e., deputy foreign minister) on April
[13](#). Pointing to the strong statements made in recent days by
Catholic bishops in Zimbabwe, Ambassador urged the Holy See to
speak out.

[12](#). (C) Parolin said the Holy See is very concerned about the
situation and pleased at the strong and united stand of the
bishops. The Vatican has been contemplating a possible papal
statement, perhaps at the Easter Sunday "Urbi et Orbi" address
on April 8 (reftel). However, he stressed that no decision had
yet been made. Parolin repeated what we had heard previously:
that the Holy See had sought, but not yet received, advice from
the Catholic Bishops Conference of Zimbabwe as to a possible
papal statement.

Comment

[13](#). (C) Despite the bishops' stronger public stand, the Holy See
remains hesitant to step forward without express support from
the bishops' conference. Further conversations by Embassy
Harare with the bishops, and/or their contacts, may be the best
way forward.

ROONEY